

## 2003 ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

### Aquatic Resource Preservation Award



#### PURPOSE:

To recognize the organized and sustained efforts of volunteer projects that improves and/or protects the aquatic ecosystems of Tennessee.

#### AWARD CATEGORIES:

<b>Citizens Aquatic Resource Preservation Award (East, Middle and West TN) *</b>	<b>Scientific Aquatic Resource Preservation Award (East, Middle and West TN) *</b>
Community Group/Non-profit Group	Community Group/Non-profit Group
K-12, 4H, or Scouts	College/University
Corporate/Business	Corporate/Business

*\* Projects inclusive of partnership groups shown here are encouraged.*

#### ELIGIBLE NOMINATIONS:

Any aquatic preservation or improvement project initiated by an organization, institution, or company that was in progress during the 2002 calendar year and which constitutes an on-going effort to improve and/or protect the aquatic ecosystems in Tennessee. Projects initiated as a result of regulatory and/or legal actions are not eligible.

#### JUDGING CRITERIA

##### Citizen Aquatic Resource Preservation Award

1. Environmental benefits including the extent to which the project incorporates an integrated effort relating to adjacent land use (e.g., riparian buffer zone etc.).
2. The long-term vision of the project (i.e., will there be on going effort or is it a one time only event).

3. The level that the project increases public awareness or education (including public awareness about the project itself or teaching about aquatic resource preservation in general).
4. Degree to which the project solicits a commitment from real estate agencies, land developers, government and/or the local community to improve and maintain the aquatic resource. The commitment may be of a financial nature or behavior modification.
5. The overall impact of the effort compared to the size of the organization.
6. The project's long-term impact on the protection and enhancement of aquatic biological integrity.

*Sample projects:* Include, but are not limited to, physical removal of trash, restoration of riparian habitat, erosion run-off prevention, etc. If there are no qualified projects within any of the three grand divisions (i.e., East, Middle or West), then there may be more than one award given in another grand division, if the quality of the other nominations warrants this.

#### **Scientific Aquatic Resource Preservation Award**

1. Holistic scope of the project (i.e., does the project assess the aquatic biological integrity of the aquatic system in addition to addressing the cause of degradation).
2. The effectiveness of the project in terms of understanding and "bench-marking" the biological integrity of the aquatic ecosystem.
3. Long-term nature (i.e., duration: months vs. years) of the project including monitoring of aquatic biotic integrity and prevention of significant deterioration as well as improvement of the aquatic system. This criterion is considered to be the actual duration of time.
4. The project's effectiveness in the long-term protection and enhancement of the aquatic ecosystem. If the project is relatively new and cannot demonstrate effectiveness at this time, the nominee can address projected (i.e., hypothesized) outcomes with justification (e.g., scientific literature) for those predictions.
5. Magnitude of the assessment and restoration project.
6. The innovative nature of the project, including scientific methodologies and technological advances.
7. The applicability of the project results to other aquatic ecosystems.
8. Level of commitment the project solicits from local landowners, government, and business. Particularly how the project demonstrates a positive working relationship with state agencies like the TDEC Watershed Program and the Natural Heritage Program.